

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2326
OFFERED BY M

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Navy SEAL Chief
3 Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder (Ret.) Transition Im-
4 provement Act of 2019”.

5 SEC. 2. TAP DEFINED.

6 In this Act, the term “TAP” means the Transition
7 Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title
8 10, United States Code.

9 SEC. 3. ACCESS FOR THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND
10 VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THE FEDERAL DIREC-
11 TORY OF NEW HIRES.

12 Section 453A(h) of the Social Security Act (42
13 U.S.C. 653a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph:

15 “(4) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretaries
16 of Labor and of Veterans Affairs shall have access
17 to information reported by employers pursuant to

1 subsection (b) of this section for purposes of track-
2 ing employment of veterans.”.

3 **SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR OFF-BASE TRANSITION**
4 **TRAINING FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES.**

5 (a) EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection
6 (a) of section 301 of the Dignified Burial and Other Vet-
7 erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law
8 112–260; 10 U.S.C. 1144 note) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “During the two-year period be-
10 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act”
11 and inserting “During the five-year period beginning
12 on the date of the enactment of the Navy SEAL
13 Chief Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder (Ret.)
14 Transition Improvement Act of 2019”; and

15 (2) by striking “to assess the feasibility and ad-
16 visability of providing such program to eligible indi-
17 viduals at locations other than military installa-
18 tions”.

19 (b) LOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is
20 amended—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “not less than
22 three and not more than five States” and inserting
23 “not fewer than 50 locations in States (as defined
24 in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)”; and

1 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “at least two”
2 and inserting “at least 20”.

3 (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (f) of such
4 section is repealed.

5 **SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR PROVISION OF TRANSITION ASSIST-**
6 **ANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
7 **AFTER SEPARATION, RETIREMENT, OR DIS-**
8 **CHARGE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10 shall make grants to eligible organizations for the provi-
11 sion of transition assistance to members of the Armed
12 Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the
13 Armed Forces, and spouses of such members.

14 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under
15 this section shall use the grant to provide to members of
16 the Armed Forces and spouses described in subsection (a)
17 resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment
18 training, and related services leading directly to successful
19 transition, as determined by the Secretary.

20 (c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—To be eligible for a
21 grant under this section, an organization shall submit to
22 the Secretary an application containing such information
23 and assurances as the Secretary, in consultation with the
24 Secretary of Labor, may require.

1 (d) PRIORITY FOR HUBS OF SERVICES.—In making
2 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority
3 to an organization that provides multiple forms of services
4 described in subsection (b).

5 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant under this section
6 shall be in an amount that does not exceed 50 percent
7 of the amount required by the organization to provide the
8 services described in subsection (b).

9 (f) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out this
10 section not later than six months after the effective date
11 of this Act.

12 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide a grant
13 under this section shall terminate on the date that is five
14 years after the date on which the Secretary implements
15 the grant program under this section.

16 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out
18 this section.

19 **SEC. 6. ONE-YEAR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE EF-**
20 **ECTIVENESS OF TAP.**

21 (a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90
22 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the cov-
24 ered officials, shall enter into an agreement with an appro-
25 priate entity with experience in adult education to carry

1 out a one-year independent assessment of TAP, includ-
2 ing—

3 (1) the effectiveness of TAP for members of
4 each military department during the entire military
5 life cycle;

6 (2) the appropriateness of the TAP career read-
7 iness standards;

8 (3) a review of information that is provided to
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs under TAP, in-
10 cluding mental health data;

11 (4) whether TAP effectively addresses the chal-
12 lenges veterans face entering the civilian workforce
13 and in translating experience and skills from mili-
14 tary service to the job market;

15 (5) whether TAP effectively addresses the chal-
16 lenges faced by the families of veterans making the
17 transition to civilian life;

18 (6) appropriate metrics regarding TAP out-
19 comes for members of the Armed Forces one year
20 after separation, retirement, or discharge from the
21 Armed Forces;

22 (7) what the Secretary, in consultation with the
23 covered officials and veterans service organizations
24 determine to be successful outcomes for TAP;

1 (8) whether members of the Armed Forces
2 achieve successful outcomes for TAP, as determined
3 under paragraph (7);

4 (9) how the Secretary and the covered officials
5 provide feedback to each other regarding such out-
6 comes;

7 (10) recommendations for the Secretaries of the
8 military departments regarding how to improve out-
9 comes for members of the Armed Forces after sepa-
10 ration, retirement, and discharge; and

11 (11) other topics the Secretary and the covered
12 officials determine would aid members of the Armed
13 Forces as they transition to civilian life.

14 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the com-
15 pletion of the independent assessment under subsection
16 (a), the Secretary and the covered officials, shall submit
17 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
18 House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed
19 Services of the Senate and House of Representatives—

20 (1) the findings and recommendations (includ-
21 ing recommended legislation) of the independent as-
22 sessment prepared by the entity described in sub-
23 section (a); and

1 (2) responses of the Secretary and the covered
2 officials to the findings and recommendations de-
3 scribed in paragraph (1).

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “covered officials” is comprised
6 of—

7 (A) the Secretary of Defense;

8 (B) the Secretary of Labor;

9 (C) the Administrator of the Small Busi-
10 ness Administration; and

11 (D) the Secretaries of the military depart-
12 ments.

13 (2) The term “military department” has the
14 meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10,
15 United States Code.

16 **SEC. 7. LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHANGES TO TAP.**

17 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 90 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense
20 and Labor and the Administrator of the Small Business
21 Administration, shall conduct a five-year longitudinal
22 study regarding TAP on three separate cohorts of mem-
23 bers of the Armed Forces who have separated from the
24 Armed Forces, including—

1 (1) a cohort that has attended TAP counseling
2 as implemented on the date of the enactment of this
3 Act;

4 (2) a cohort that attends TAP counseling after
5 the Secretaries of Defense and Labor implement
6 changes recommended in the report under section
7 6(b) of this Act; and

8 (3) a cohort that has not attended TAP coun-
9 seling.

10 (b) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days
11 after the day that is one year after the date of the initi-
12 ation of the study under subsection (a) and annually
13 thereafter for the three subsequent years, the Secretaries
14 of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the Adminis-
15 trator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit
16 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
17 House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed
18 Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a
19 progress report of activities under the study during the
20 immediately preceding year.

21 (c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
22 the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Sec-
23 retaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the
24 Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall
25 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Sen-

1 ate and House of Representatives and the Committees on
2 Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representa-
3 tives a report of final findings and recommendations based
4 on the study.

5 (d) ELEMENTS.—The final report under subsection
6 (c) shall include information regarding the following:

7 (1) The percentage of each cohort that received
8 unemployment benefits during the study.

9 (2) The numbers of months members of each
10 cohort were employed during the study.

11 (3) Annual starting and ending salaries of
12 members of each cohort who were employed during
13 the study.

14 (4) How many members of each cohort enrolled
15 in an institution of higher learning, as that term is
16 defined in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States
17 Code.

18 (5) The academic credit hours, degrees, and
19 certificates obtained by members of each cohort dur-
20 ing the study.

21 (6) The annual income of members of each co-
22 hort.

23 (7) The total household income of members of
24 each cohort.

1 (8) How many members of each cohort own
2 their principal residences.

3 (9) How many dependents that members of
4 each cohort have.

5 (10) The percentage of each cohort that
6 achieves a successful outcome for TAP, as deter-
7 mined under section 6(a)(7) of this Act.

8 (11) Other criteria the Secretaries and the Ad-
9 ministrator of the Small Business Administration
10 determine appropriate.

